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# UA37/5/6 Coach E.A. Diddle Memorial Service

Western Kentucky University

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**Western Kentucky University**  
**UA37 Faculty/Staff Personal Papers**  
**Series 5 Edgar Allen Diddle**  
**Item 6 E.A. Diddle Memorial Service Transcription**

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**Biographical/Historical Note:**

Edgar Allen Diddle was born near Gradyville in Adair County, Kentucky on March 12, 1895 to John Haskins and Mary Elizabeth (Hughes) Diddle. He attended Centre College in Danville from 1915 to 1917, entered the U.S. Army, then returned to Centre for a time. After coaching briefly at the high school level, Diddle arrived at Western Kentucky in 1922. He was initially athletic director and coach of all sports. As the Hilltoppers' men's basketball coach from 1922 to 1964, he compiled a career record of 759 victories and 302 defeats and took his teams to ten OVC championships, eight National Invitational Tournaments and three National Collegiate Athletic Association tournaments. WKU's Diddle arena was dedicated November 7, 1963 in his honor. E.A. Diddle married his former women's basketball player Margaret Louise Monin in 1923. He died January 2, 1970. He was inducted into Western's newly created Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991, and into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1992. [Encyclopedia of Kentucky]

**Description:** Brief memorial service held for Coach E.A. Diddle by the student body of Western Kentucky University. An unidentified man makes the introduction of Dero Downing who makes a few remarks and a Miss Martin who sings the national anthem.

**Dates:** Jan. 1970

**Formats:** 1 audiotape, 1 wav file, 1 mp3 file

**Subject Analytics:**

Audio recording  
Diddle, Edgar Allen, 1895-1970  
Downing, Dero Goodman, 1921-2011  
Memorial rites & ceremonies

Prayer  
Singing  
Western Kentucky University

**Accession Information:**

**Access Restrictions:** none

**Preferred Citation:** UA37/5/6 E.A. Diddle Memorial Service Transcription, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

**Processing Information:** Transcription by Suellyn Lathrop, 2015.

# Audiotape Recording List

UA37.5.6 ~ Audiocassette

06/09/2015

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
Tape 1	1	00:00:12	<i>Unidentified Man: May I have your attention please? May I have your attention please! Ladies and gentlemen the president of Western Kentucky University.</i>
Tape 1	1	00:00:28	<i>Applause</i>
Tape 1	1	00:00:56	<p><i>Dero Downing: Ladies and gentlemen in just a moment we will bow in a prayer of tribute to Coach E.A. Diddle who was deceased at 8:30 AM Friday, January 2nd. It is in keeping with the request of Coach Diddle and with the express wishes of the family that the university is proceeding with scheduled activities including tonight's basketball game. Students and faculty attending the funeral which will be at 10:00 AM Monday at the First Baptist Church will be excused for that purpose.</i></p> <p><i>The sorrow that wells within us is symbolized by the wreath that Dr. Kelly Thompson a long personal friend, trusted colleague and devoted associate of Coach Diddle will now place in front of Coach Diddle's official box(?)</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Thompson is escorted by Dr. John Minton dean of the graduate college and chairman of the faculty athletic committee who is representing the university faculty and Mr. David Porter vice president of the Associated Students representing the Western student body. ----- as the flag is raised, then the playing of the national anthem it will then be placed at half-mast to pay deserved homage to the most loyal, dedicated and colorful Westerner of all time.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:03:04	<p><i>DD: Will you please stand? As we bow our heads and united our hearts in prayer and remain standing for the presentation of colors and the playing of the national anthem.</i></p> <p><i>Let us pray: Our heavenly Father we bow before Thee recognizing that it is in God that we live and move and pause. As we render our hearts in this moment of reverent prayer we seek Thy strength and courage in this hour of great sorrow which has cast a shadow across this university, our city, state and indeed among friends throughout the world whose lives have been touched Coach Diddle. Our hearts are full of sympathy and compassion for a family which has suffered the loss of a loved one, for the university, the community and the state. We have lost a great leader. And for the world which has lost an influence upon mankind. The mystery of life and death we cannot comprehend, but it is our prayer that the life of Coach Edgar Allen Diddle serve as an example of his -----, of his goodness lives and his love endures forever. And God we pray that his strong conviction and deep faith may permeate our lives even as we gather here tonight. And may we be made to understand that the proclamation of suffering faith is our task in the road of life ahead. We pray that our lives may reflect the inspiration of that Holy Spirit and that we may be guided always by an abiding faith in the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God. Amen.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:05:22	<i>UM: Will the Pershing Rifles color guard please come forward?</i>
Tape 1	1	00:05:32	<i>Silence</i>
Tape 1	1	00:05:47	<i>UM: Our national anthem as sung by Miss ----- Martin.</i>
Tape 1	1	00:05:53	<i>The singing of the national anthem.</i>